

July 2, 2003

SUBJECT: Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP): Revised 2000
Census Data

TO: Regional Directors
Child Nutrition Programs
All Regions

We have recently learned that the 2000 Census data disseminated for purposes of making eligibility determinations for the day care homes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) contains intermittent anomalies.

When the Census Bureau developed the programming to be used in calculating the special tabulation, the "Place Code" (represented by the 5-digit number in the fourth column of the original data) was included in the sorting of the detailed data. The "Place Code" was included so the "Place Name" could be displayed at the end of the data to assist State agencies and sponsoring organizations in identifying specific areas.

In the example below, the Census Block Group (CBG) for 37183 053600 2 is associated with five different "Place Codes", with differing eligibility data ranging from 0 percent to 66.7 percent eligible. The original tabulation separated the data by "Place Code" when it should have combined the eligibility information in aggregate. The result of the anomaly resulted in data similar to this example from North Carolina:

State code /County Code	Census Tract	Census Block Code	Place Code	No. of Pop. 18 and younger	No. of Pop. 18 years meeting criteria	Percentage meeting criteria	State	Place name
37183	053600	2	10740	1255	85	6.8	NC	Cary Town (part)
37183	053600	2	19000	0	0	0.0	NC	Durham city (part)
37183	053600	2	44520	45	30	66.7	NC	Morrisville (part)
37183	053600	2	55000	0	0	0.0	NC	Raleigh city (part)
37183	053600	2	99999	125	0	0.0	NC	Remainder of Wake County

To address the miscalculation, the Census Bureau has rerun the data and corrected the anomaly. Since the 5-digit "Place Code" is not used in calculating the data, it has been removed from the data file (see data example below). As a result, we are providing a revised version of the instructions for printing Census maps with the reference to "Place Code" removed. Additionally, revised data files for each State have been provided via email. In all cases, there should only be one set of eligibility data for each CBG, which may be associated with more that one Place Name, such as the example below.

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State code /County Code	Census Tract	Census Block Code	No. of Pop. 18 and younger	No. of Pop. 18 years meeting criteria	Percentage meeting criteria	State	Place name
37183	053600	2	1425	115	8.1	NC	Cary Town (part)
37183	053600	2	1425	115	8.1	NC	Durham city (part)
37183	053600	2	1425	115	8.1	NC	Morrisville (part)
37183	053600	2	1425	115	8.1	NC	Raleigh city (part)
37183	053600	2	1425	115	8.1	NC	Remainder of Wake County

Fiscal Year 2003 Policy

Effective immediately, the 1990 Census data may no longer be used to determine Tier I eligibility status of day care home providers, only the **Revised** 2000 Census data may be used. In order to facilitate the use of the **Revised** 2000 Census information, we highly recommend that State agencies and sponsors obtain and print maps of eligible CBG's using the instructions provided.

After the State and sponsors have generated maps, they are to be used to compare eligible CBG areas with currently participating Tier I day care home providers determined as such using 1990 Census data. Sponsors must review all Tier I day care home providers determined as such based on the 1990 Census data and make a new determination using all methods available, including income eligibility, area eligibility based on 50% free and reduced price, or **Revised** 2000 Census data. The review and reclassification of these Tier I day care home providers must be completed by June 1, 2004, however a State agency may establish an earlier completion date if they choose.

If a day care home provider is currently classified as Tier II, but the CBG data demonstrates that the home is now Tier I, then the sponsor may immediately change the status of that provider to Tier I and pay the higher rate of reimbursement for the current month and future months. Note, there is no provision to pay retroactive reimbursement for the higher Tier I rates for any prior month.

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Issues with Importing the Data

Census data files are provided for each State in two file formats: Text (.txt) and Microsoft Word (.doc). A State agency or sponsor may import the Text file into data management software that has data manipulation capabilities, such as sorting. However, when importing the data into another software program, such as Microsoft Excel, insignificant digits (zeros) may drop off. Microsoft Excel is a spreadsheet which is primarily used with numerical data. When using numerical data, zeros in front of a number become insignificant, therefore they drop off. For example, the CBG 37183 053600 2 from our example above will appear as 37183 53600 2 in Microsoft Excel. State agencies and sponsoring organizations importing the data into Excel should be cognizant of this issue.

The issue of “insignificant digits” (zeros) dropping off of CBG data may occur **after** integers larger than one when importing the data into non-Microsoft software. A few State agencies reported CBG data not displaying any zeros, before or after integers larger than one. For example, the CBG 37183 053600 2 could appear as 37183 536 2. We suggest that a close comparison be made between the Word version of the data and the imported version to avoid confusion.

Please share this information with your State agencies as soon as possible. If you have any questions concerning any of the issues addressed in this memorandum, please contact Keith Churchill or Ron Ulibarri.

STANLEY C. GARNETT
Director
Child Nutrition Division

Attachments